

CLAIMS

1. A method of human authentication in a system comprising a computer and a mouse, said method comprising
 - a: detecting mouse movements of a user;
 - b: obtaining at least one metric of mouse movement information characterizing the user;
 - c: comparing the metric against a database; and
 - d: authenticating the user.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the method provides information regarding the user's class identity.
3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of detecting the mouse movements of the user is executed without the user's awareness.
4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the database comprises an aggregated representation of previously detected mouse movement information.
5. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the comparison between the metrics and the database uses at least one eigenvector derived from the metrics.
6. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the user's mouse movements are in response to a display on the computer's screen.
7. An information processing system for identifying its users, the system comprising:
 - an arrangement of sensors for detecting a user's mouse movements;
 - a memory unit for storing the detected user's mouse movements;
 - a computational element for obtaining at least one metric from the user's mouse movements and manipulating the metric; and
 - a database.
8. A system according to Claim 7 wherein a target pattern is used to elicit information known only to an authorized user.
9. A system according to Claim 8 wherein a target pattern that changes from a session to session is used to elicit the user's mouse movements.
10. A system according to Claim 7 wherein said information processing system is distributed over a plurality of networked devices.

11. A system according to Claim 7 is used for online commercial transactions.
12. A system according to Claim 7 is used for online voting.
13. A system according to Claim 7 is used for network access.
14. A system according to Claim 7 is used to authorize the release of sensitive personal records.
15. A system according to Claim 7 wherein said information processing system is a single computer.